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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 001495

SIPDIS

DRL/IRF FOR COFSKY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/02/2029

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KIRF](#) [EG](#)

SUBJECT: EGYPT'S BAHÀ'Ì FRUSTRATED WITH LACK OF PROGRESS ON
IDENTITY CARDS

REF: A. CAIRO 887

[§1.](#) B. CAIRO 688 C. CAIRO 453 Classified By: Economic-Political Minister-Counselor Donald A. Blome for reason 1.4 (d).
[§1.](#) KEY POINTS -- (C) During a July 28 meeting, leaders of Egypt's Baha'i community reported no progress in obtaining government identification cards.
[§2.](#) (C) Comment: The Baha'i were euphoric in April when the MoI issued a decree outlining identification document procedures for Baha'i and other religious minorities.
[§3.](#) (C) We met recently with a number of Baha'i community leaders, including Raouf Hindy who appears regularly on Egyptian television to advocate for their rights.
[§4.](#) (C) According to the Baha'i, as of late July, between 150 and 160 community members have applied for either birth certificates or identification cards.
[§5.](#) (C) Despite the lack of progress on the document issue, the Baha'i reported that they are generally able to practice their religion freely.